

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A keyboard comprising:
2 at least one keyboard foot coupled to an edge of the keyboard and being
3 movable between an inclined position with the keyboard foot extending downward from the
4 edge below a bottom of the keyboard and a neutral position with the keyboard foot disposed
5 adjacent the edge above the bottom of the keyboard.
- 1 2. The keyboard of claim 1 wherein the keyboard foot is rotatably
2 coupled to the edge of the keyboard by a hinge to rotate between the inclined position and the
3 neutral position.
- 1 3. The keyboard of claim 1 wherein the edge is a rear edge of the
2 keyboard.
- 1 4. The keyboard of claim 1 wherein the keyboard foot folds onto the edge
2 of the keyboard in the neutral position.
- 1 5. The keyboard of claim 1 comprising a plurality of keyboard feet.
- 1 6. A keyboard comprising:
2 a keyboard module having a keyboard body; and
3 a preformed roller module fixedly attached to the keyboard body, the
4 preformed roller module including a preformed roller module housing having a slot and a
5 user-manipulable roller partially exposed through the slot, the preformed roller module
6 housing including a rotational support to support the roller in rotation relative to the
7 preformed roller module housing around a rotational axis of the roller, the roller module
8 being operatively coupled with the keyboard module to interface with the keyboard module.
- 1 7. The keyboard of claim 6 wherein the preformed roller module housing
2 includes a translational support to support the roller for movement in translation relative to
3 the preformed roller module housing in a direction perpendicular to the rotational axis of the
4 roller.
- 1 8. The keyboard of claim 7 further comprising a spring coupled between
2 the translational support and the preformed roller module housing.

1 9. The keyboard of claim 8 wherein the preformed roller module includes
2 a switch which is activated by moving the roller in translation to contact the switch.

1 10. The keyboard of claim 9 wherein the spring comprises a coiled spring
2 which biases the translational support and the roller away from the switch.

1 11. The keyboard of claim 9 wherein the roller is disposed on a first side of
2 the switch and the coiled spring extends from the first side of the switch to a second side of
3 the switch opposite from the first side.

1 12. The keyboard of claim 11 wherein the coiled spring includes a spring
2 support extension disposed on the second side of the switch, the spring support extension
3 supporting the coiled spring on the second side to facilitate smooth translational movement of
4 the roller relative to the switch.

1 13. The keyboard of claim 12 wherein the spring support extension is
2 supported on the roller module housing.

1 14. The keyboard of claim 6 wherein the keyboard body includes a
2 recessed region for receiving the preformed roller module housing.

1 15. The keyboard of claim 6 wherein the preformed roller module includes
2 a detector operatively coupled with the roller to detect rotation of the roller relative to the
3 preformed roller module housing.

1 16. A keyboard for a computer, the keyboard comprising:
2 a user-manipulable volume control dial disposed on a keyboard surface of the
3 keyboard for controlling an audio volume of the computer, the volume control dial including
4 a cylinder having an undulating surface and an axis generally perpendicular to the keyboard
5 surface; and
6 a spring being biased against the undulating surface of the cylinder to produce
7 a ratcheting movement of the cylinder during rotation of the cylinder to provide tactile user
8 feedback.

1 17. The keyboard of claim 16 wherein the spring includes a cylindrical
2 portion in contact with the undulating surface of the cylinder.

1 18. The keyboard of claim 16 wherein the volume control dial is movable
2 toward and away from the keyboard surface, and the spring biases the volume control dial
3 away from the keyboard surface.

1 19. The keyboard of claim 16 wherein the volume control dial is
2 preformed and attached as a preformed module to the keyboard.

1 20. The keyboard of claim 16 wherein the cylinder includes a plurality of
2 slits, and further comprising:

3 a photoemitter mounted on a first side of the cylinder to direct light through
4 the slits in the cylinder; and

5 a photodetector mounted on a second side of the cylinder, opposite from the
6 photoemitter, to detect light from the photoemitter passing through the slits in the cylinder.

1 21. A keyboard comprising:

2 a plurality of keys having key mechanisms connected thereto;

3 an opaque keyboard frame placed over the key mechanisms to cover at least a
4 substantial portion of the key mechanisms, the plurality of keys protruding through openings
5 of the opaque keyboard frame; and

6 a translucent top case placed over the opaque keyboard frame, the plurality of
7 keys protruding through openings of the translucent top case.

1 22. The keyboard of claim 21 wherein the opaque keyboard frame has a
2 generally smooth upper surface visible through the translucent top case.

1 23. The keyboard of claim 21 further comprising at least one module
2 protruding through openings of the translucent top case.

1 24. The keyboard of claim 23 wherein the at least one module includes at
2 least one of a roller module and a multi-media module.